

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-42 and 44-53 were pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The examiner is thanked for indicating claims 41, 42 and 44-53 to be allowable, and claim 9-38 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

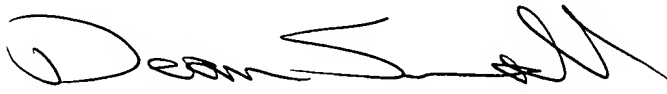
Claims 1, 2, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuntman et al. (USP 2002/0075171). Claims 4-7 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuntman et al. (USP 2002/0075171) in further view of Ammar et al. (USP 5,945,926).

While the undersigned continues to believe that independent claim 1 is patentably distinct for reasons of record, to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been rewritten to add the limitations of dependent claim 9 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter in the final Office Action). In addition, claims 35, 39 and 40 have been rewritten in independent form. The above claim amendments are believed to render moot the outstanding rejections.

The above claim amendments do not add new subject matter and accordingly entry of this amendment is requested.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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